



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
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Lieutenant Governor

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RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7005 1820 0001 5707 9475

February 2, 2015

Robert Cortez
Morningside Water Users Cooperative
2009 N. Pine
Artesia, NM 88210

RE: Administrative Compliance Order, No. 2015-ACO-01 Morningside Water Users Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408

Mr. Cortez,

Please find attached Administrative Compliance Order No. 2015-ACO-01 issued to Morningside Water Coop, for Morningside Water Users Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408, under the Environmental Improvement Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-1-10, the Drinking Water Regulations, 20.7.10 NMAC, and the Utility Operator Certification Act, NMSA 1978, § 61-33-10. Please review the Administrative Compliance Order (Order) carefully to understand what action must be taken to comply with the requirements of the Order. Morningside Water Coop has a right to answer the allegations in the Order and request a hearing, NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-120.E and 74-1-10.E and 20.1.5 NMAC (available at www.nmenv.state.nm.us).

If you have any questions or need assistance with meeting the requirements of this Order, please contact Maria J. Medina, Enforcement Coordinator, at 505-476-8629 or via email at maria.medina@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Trais Kliphuis, Director
Water Protection Division

cc. Brandi Garcia, Compliance Officer
Jenna Manheimer, EPA (Electronic)
P:\-ENFORCEMENT\Individual PWS Enforcement Info
Central File

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT**

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
WATER PROTECTION DIVISION,

Complainant,
v.

No. 2015-ACO-01

MORNINGSIDE WATER COOP,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE ORDER

Pursuant to the Environmental Improvement Act ("EIA"), NMSA 1978, § 74-1-10, the Drinking Water Regulations ("DW Regulations"), 20.7.10 NMAC and the Utility Operator Certification Act ("UOCA"), NMSA 1978 § 61-33-10, the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED"), acting through the Director of the Water Protection Division of the NMED, issues this Administrative Compliance Order ("Order") to Morningside Water Coop ("Respondent") to enforce the EIA, DW Regulations and UOCA.

FINDINGS

1. The NMED is an executive agency within the government of the State of New Mexico and is charged with administration and enforcement of the EIA, DW Regulations and UOCA.
2. Respondent owns and operates a public drinking water system ("System") Morningside Water Users Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408, located in Eddy County, New Mexico.
3. The System is a Community water system, as defined by Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.2], that regularly provides piped drinking water to approximately five hundred (500) residents and has approximately one hundred twenty (120) service connections to serve these residents.

4. Respondent, Morningside Water Coop, is a “person” as defined by the EIA, NMSA 1978, § 74-1-3, the UOCA, NMSA 1978, § 61-33-2.G, and 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.2].

5. 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.403(a)(5)], Ground water systems with significant deficiencies or source water fecal contamination, requires a ground water system to either correct significant deficiencies or be in in compliance with a State approved corrective action plan within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State of significant deficiencies.

6. On May 20, 2013, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to correct significant deficiency identified during the December 13, 2012, Sanitary Survey within 120 days of receiving notice of deficiency. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

7. 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(d)], requires a public water system to notify customers of the violation and certify that the notice was published and the method of publication by submitting a completed copy of the Public Notification Certification Form to NMED with ten (10) days of completing the public notification requirements. The public water system must include a copy of the public notice made available to customers.

8. On February 4, 2013, a Notice was issued to Respondent by NMED to notify the public and the State of failure to complete the required lead and copper monitoring during 2011.

VIOLATION 1- Drinking Water Regulations

9. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.403(a)(5)], which requires a ground water system to either correct significant deficiencies or be in compliance with a State approved corrective action plan within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State of significant deficiencies. Respondent failed to correct significant deficiency identified during the December 13, 2012, Sanitary Survey within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State.

VIOLATION 2- Drinking Water Regulations

10. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(d)], which requires a public water system to notify customers of the violation and certify that the notice was published and the method of publication by submitting a completed copy of the Public Notification Certification Form to NMED within ten (10) days of completing the public notice requirements. Respondent failed to submit to NMED a completed copy of the Public Notice Certification Form and a copy of the public notice within ten (10) days of notifying customers of failure to complete the required lead and copper monitoring during 2011.

RETURN TO COMPLIANCE- Drinking Water Regulations

Based upon the foregoing, Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following:

11. By March 31, 2015, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.403(a)(5)], and correct deficiency identified in the December 13, 2012, Sanitary Survey.

12. By March 31, 2015, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(d)], and submit a copy of the Public Notification Certification Form and a copy of the public notice notifying customers of failure to complete the required lead and copper monitoring during 2011.

13. Submittals made pursuant to paragraphs 11 through 12 shall be sent by standard U.S. mail or certified mail with return receipt requested to the following:

Maria J. Medina, Enforcement Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
Drinking Water Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

If respondent fails to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 11 through 13 of this order, the Secretary of NMED may assess additional civil penalties not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each instance of noncompliance with this order.

VIOLATION 3- Utility Operator Certification Act

14. Respondent is in violation of the UOCA, NMSA 1978, § 61-33-6, 20.7.4.20.A NMAC, and 20.7.10.400.Q NMAC (incorporating NMSA 1978, § 61-33-6 and 20.7.4.A NMAC). NMSA 1978, § 61-33-6 and 20.7.4.A NMAC provide that, "It is unlawful to operate or allow the operation of a public water supply system or public wastewater facility unless the system or facility is operated by or under the supervision of a certified operator who meets or exceeds the appropriate level of certification required to operate the system or facility." Respondent is operating the System without a certified operator despite having received written notification by the NMED on January 10, 2013 that a certified operator was required.

RETURN TO COMPLIANCE

Utility Operator Certification Act

Based upon the foregoing findings, Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following:

15. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order, Morningside Water Users Cooperative public water system shall at all times be operated by or under the supervision of a certified operator who meets or exceeds the appropriate level of certification required to operate the System in accordance with the UOCA, NMSA 1978, § 61-33-6, 20.7.4.20.A NMAC, and 20.7.10.400.Q NMAC. Respondent shall submit a written notification of that person's name and a copy of the certified operator's certification to the NMED.

16. Submittals made pursuant to paragraph 15 shall be sent by standard U.S. mail or certified mail with return receipt requested to the following:

Anne Keller, Environmental Specialist
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Maria J. Medina, Enforcement Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
Drinking Water Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

If respondent fails to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 15 through 16 of this order, the Secretary of NMED may assess additional civil penalties not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per day for each day of continued noncompliance with this order.

RIGHT TO ANSWER AND REQUEST A HEARING

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-120.E and 74-1-10.E and 20.1.5 NMAC (available at www.nmenv.state.nm.us), Respondent has the right to request a hearing. If Respondent (a) contests any material or legal matters upon which this Order is based; (b) contends that Respondent is entitled to prevail as a matter of law; or (c) otherwise contests the appropriateness of this Order, Respondent may mail or deliver within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order a written Request for Hearing at the following address:

Hearing Clerk
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Respondent must attach a copy of this Order to the Request for Hearing. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(d) NMAC.

The Request for Hearing shall include an Answer. Respondent's Answer shall clearly and directly admit, deny or explain each of the factual allegations contained in this Order with regard to which Respondent has any knowledge. Where Respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation, Respondent should so state, and the Respondent may deny the allegation on that basis. Any allegation in this Order not specifically denied shall be deemed admitted. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(a) NMAC.

Respondent's Answer shall also include any affirmative defenses upon which Respondent intends to rely. Any affirmative defense not asserted in the Answer, except a defense asserting lack of subject matter jurisdiction, shall be deemed waived. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(b) NMAC.

Respondent's Answer shall be signed under oath or affirmation that the information contained therein is to the best of the signer's knowledge believed to be true and correct. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(c) NMAC.

FINALITY OF ORDER

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-10.E and § 74-1-10.E, this Order shall become final unless the Respondent files a Request for Hearing with the Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Whether or not a Request for Hearing has been filed, Respondent may confer with the NMED concerning settlement of this Order. The NMED encourages settlement consistent with the provisions and objectives of the EIA, the DW Regulations and the UOCA. Settlement discussions neither extend the thirty (30) day deadline for filing a Request for Hearing and Answer nor alter the deadline imposed for compliance with the mandate of this Order. Settlement discussion may be pursued as an alternative to, and simultaneously with, the hearing proceedings. Respondent may appear at the settlement conference alone or accompanied or represented by legal counsel.

A Stipulated Final Order shall finalize any settlement reached by the parties. The Stipulated Final Order must resolve all issues raised in this Order, shall be final and binding on all parties, and may not be appealed.

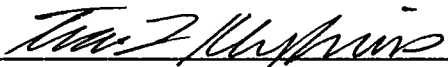
To explore the possibility of settlement in this matter, contact Maria J. Medina, Drinking Water Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469, (505) 476-8629.

COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS

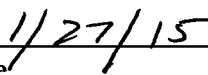
Compliance with the requirements of this Order does not relieve Respondent of the obligation to comply with all other applicable laws and regulations. This Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of 20.7.10 NMAC and 20.7.4 NMAC which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this Order is not an election by the NMED to forgo any civil or criminal action otherwise authorized under the EIA.

TERMINATION

This Order shall terminate when Respondent certifies that all requirements of this Order have been met and the NMED has approved such certification in writing, or when the Secretary approves a Stipulated Final Order.



Trais Kliphuis, Director
Water Protection Division
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469



Date

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Compliance Order was sent on 2/2, 2015 via certified return receipt requested to the following:

Robert Cortez
Morningside Water Users Cooperative
2009 N. Pine
Artesia, NM 88210



Maria J. Medina